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THE NEW YORK

# LATIN LEAFLET

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## TRUSTEES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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## Thirteenth Meeting of the Latin Club

### CHANGE OF PLACE

The thirteenth regular meeting of The New York Latin Club is called for Saturday, December 3, at 12 M, in the Hotel St Denis, corner of Broadway and Eleventh Street, New York. Professor John C Rolfe of the University of Pennsylvania, will address the club. The subject will be announced later. All persons who are interested, whether teachers of Latin or not, are cordially invited to be present. The plan is to serve luncheon at 12 M, promptly, so that there shall be no delay. The address will follow the luncheon, and adjournment will occur about 2 P M, *thus leaving the afternoon still unbroken, for those who attend.* Please send a postal card at once to the Sec'y, Mr A L Hodges, 309 W 101 st, N Y, if you intend to be present, so that we may inform Mr Taylor, the proprietor of the hotel, how many to expect. *Please attend to this at once.*

The subject of Professor Rolfe's address will be "Extracts from a Teacher's Notebook".

The price of the luncheon will be 75 cents to members, \$1.00 to others. A ticket entitling a member to the three luncheons of the year can be secured of the Secretary in advance for \$2.00.

Out-of-town teachers may find it convenient to be in the city on the day announced.

Information as to the conditions of membership in The Latin Club can be had at this meeting, or by referring to Nos 3 and 10 of THE LATIN LEAFLET, or by addressing the Secretary

H H BICE, *President*  
A L HODGES, *Secretary*

## How Shall We Mark the "Scansion"?

Professor Knapp in his address recently published in the LEAFLET touches upon two difficulties that the Latin teacher encounters in the work of the class room. The first is the use of the terms "long" and "short" with reference to syllable quantity as well as to vowel quantity. His remedy would be to call a long syllable "heavy" and a short one "light". Whatever the merits of the suggestion, it hardly seems feasible so long as all the grammars, even the latest, keep to the old nomenclature. Experience moreover seems to prove that it is possible by a little careful explanation duly emphasized and opportunely reiterated to make students apprehend the meaning and use of the terms "long syllable" and "short syllable" in contradistinction to "long vowel" and "short vowel".

Furthermore this first difficulty will to a great extent be obviated if we can remove the second, which is due to the prevalent method of marking the "scansion". The beginner is carefully taught, or should be at least, to place the *macron* over the long vowel whenever he writes a Latin word. This practice he follows in the lessons of the first year and in all the composition work of the succeeding years, until he comes to feel that a long vowel differs from the corresponding short vowel both in form and power, just as omega differs from omicron, for example. But now upon taking up the study of Vergil our carefully trained student is told to put the *macron* over the long syllable even when it has a short vowel. This procedure naturally obliterates all distinction between syllable quantity and vowel quantity, and Professor Knapp is quite right in regarding it as a pernicious practice. He proposes therefore the introduction of a new symbol. However, *cui bono?* By a very simple device all confusion may be avoided, and that too without the multiplication of symbols.

Let the *macron* and *breve* be used to indicate syllable quantity, but let them be placed underneath the line, and thus leave the vowel marks undisturbed. The opening line of the Aeneid then would take the following form: